UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/CN.1/1
28 July 1992

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Commodities
First session
Geneva, 19 October 1992
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

# ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

## I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Establishment of the work programme of the Standing Committee, including assistance to the Trade and Development Board in assessing the question of a world conference on commodities under UNCTAD auspices

4. Subsidiary organs of the Standing Committee (paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Committee)

5. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Standing Committee

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee to the Trade and Development Board.

GE.92 - 51678

## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Trade and Development Board states that: "At the commencement of the first meeting of each regular session, the Committee shall elect a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the Committee. In electing the officers, due account shall be taken of the need to ensure an equitable geographical distribution." Moreover, rule 19 indicates that "the Bureau of the Committee shall consist of seven members, including four members from Groups A and C combined, two members from Group B and one member from Group D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended".

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda in section I above was presented to the consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 17 July 1992. As provided for in the UNCTAD calendar of meetings, the Standing Committee will have available five working days from 19 to 23 October 1992. Throughout the session, interpretation facilities will be available for up to two simultaneous meetings in the mornings and afternoons. At the first meeting, on 19 October 1992, an opening statement will be made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative. The rest of the first session of the Standing Committee, as agreed in the consultations of the Secretary-General, will be primarily devoted to item 3 of the agenda.

Item 3: Establishment of the work programme of the Standing Committee, including assistance to the Trade and Development Board in assessing the question of a world conference on commodities under UNCTAD auspices

With a view to assisting the Standing Committee in establishing its work programme, the secretariat has prepared a note entitled "Issues for consideration in the establishment of the work programme" (TD/B/CN.1/2). The issues relate to: (i) analyses and identification of approaches on commodity policies; (ii) optimizing the contribution of the commodities sector to development; (iii) following and facilitating intergovernmental consultations and actions among interested governments on the problems of particular commodities; and, (iv) organization of the work of the Standing Committee.

Item 4: Subsidiary organs of the Standing Committee (paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Committee)

Paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Standing Committee states "To assist it in its work, the Committee may have, as subsidiary organs, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Tungsten and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron ore". A short background note describing past work in UNCTAD with respect to tungsten and iron ore is contained in document TD/B/CN.1/3.

Item 5: Provisional agenda for the second session of the Standing Committee

It is recalled that in paragraph 71 of the Cartagena Commitment, it was agreed that "The standing committees should be geared to assist the Board in the effective discharge of its functions. The work and agendas of the standing committees should be organized in such a way as to attract the attendance of senior policy officials in the respective sectors". Moreover, paragraph 75 states that "The Committees will meet as often as determined by the Board, and their meetings will be of five days' duration or less". A draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Standing Committee will be submitted for consideration in the light of the decisions of the Committee with respect to its work programme.

Item 6: Other business

Item 7: Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee to the Trade and Development Board

The report of the Standing Committee will be considered by the Trade and Development Board at the second part of its thirty-ninth session, scheduled to be held from 15 to 26 March 1993.